



ISSN 2336-3274 (Print) ISSN 2570-7558 (Online)

<https://edu.uhk.cz/africa>

Fiala, Vlastimil, Prouza Jan, Skalník Petr. 2017. Politické stranictví v západní Africe (Sierra Leone, Burkina Faso a Kamerun) [Political Partisanship in Western Africa (Sierra Leone, Burkina Faso and Cameroon)]. Hradec Králové: University of Hradec Králové

Author:

Jan Klíma – Philosophical Faculty, University of Hradec Králové, The Czech Republic

Recommended citation:

Klíma, J. (2017). Fiala, Vlastimil, Prouza Jan, Skalník Petr. 2017. Politické stranictví v západní Africe (Sierra Leone, Burkina Faso a Kamerun) [Political Partisanship in Western Africa (Sierra Leone, Burkina Faso and Cameroon)]. Hradec Králové: University of Hradec Králové. *Modern Africa: Politics, History and Society*, 5(1), 139–141. Retrieved from <https://edu.uhk.cz/africa/index.php/ModAfr/article/view/176>



University of Hradec Králové
Philosophical Faculty

book. This is perhaps the greatest contribution of this book, which will inevitably attract a wider readership than a strictly anthropological or African(ist) audience.

Hana Horáková

References

- Mudimbe, V.Y. 1988. *The Invention of Africa: Gnosis, Philosophy, and the Order of Knowledge*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.
- Rudwick, S. 2017. Afropolitanism at UCT and Why Rhodes Had to Fall. Unpublished paper presented at the conference *Africa of the Past, Africa of the Future: The Dynamics of Global Conflicts, Peace and Development* held at Prague, 2–3 May.

Fiala, Vlastimil, Prouza Jan, Skalník Petr. 2017. *Politické stranictví v západní Africe (Sierra Leone, Burkina Faso a Kamerun)* [Political Partisanship in Western Africa (Sierra Leone, Burkina Faso and Cameroon)]. Hradec Králové: University of Hradec Králové – Ústí nad Orlicí: Oftis, 216 pp.

Within the research project “Political Partisanship in Western Africa” three Africanists attached to the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Hradec Králové, have extended the series of similar studies concerning other African countries published so far. While the previous volumes concentrated mostly on one African country, this annotated book covers three countries with different colonial history and diverse geostrategic positions. Burkina Faso, a former French colony (*Haute-Volta*) in the interior part of Western Africa, Sierra Leone, a former British coastal colony and protectorate founded for liberated slaves, and Cameroon situated on the Gulf of Guinea with a complicated German colonial heritage and French and British mandate administration represent different historical, geographical and population cases. Surprisingly, however, when analysed after 1945 (mostly during the latest three decades) by using the theories of political science all three countries seem to have been passing a very similar political development. A deeper analysis of such evidence of global impact would have exceeded the framework of the research

methods used here, but it would certainly deserve the attention of historians.

The first part “Political Partisanship of Burkina Faso” (by Vlastimil Fiala, pp. 13–110) is the most extensive one. The author, a political scientist and leading project researcher, gives an overview of the historical and population singularity of the country, then deals with the political developments from the emancipation process up to the Fourth Burkinabé Republic. After that, he analyses all features of the political partisanship from the period of the foundation of parties until the present (without mentioning the political background of the 16–23 September 2015 coup and the transitional president Michel Kafando). Finally, he offers a list of the political parties, existing as well as extinct or banned, including coalitions. This part is dedicated to the Republic of Burkina Faso and informs in detail about the political development of the country politics, also mentioning all important politicians. When transcribing French names and titles into the English and Czech language, several small inaccuracies occurred, e. g. Union Progressite Voltaïque (p. 88, correctly Union Progressiste Voltaïque), and Voltaijský pokrokový svaz (correctly Voltský or Voltajský) respectively.

The second part “Political Partisanship of Sierra Leone” (by Jan Prouza, pp. 111–172) has the same structure. This Africanist experienced in African-international relations and West African politics does not describe the theme by itself, but seeks to answer important questions asked in the Introduction: Do the political parties have the potential to generate the respective elites? Who and what is represented by the Sierra Leone parties? Which are the decisive factors of a party’s electoral success? He also follows the political development from the colonial period through the First Republic, the civil war, the Second up to the Third Republic (without mentioning the constitutional reform of 2008) and contemporary political events. He then deals with the development of the political parties in different periods and, finally, offers a list of those parties divided into existing and extinct political parties.

Petr Skalník is another experienced specialist in African anthropology and politics. The title of the third part of the book under review written by him is “Cameroon: The State and Political Parties.” After

characterising the overall conditions and the country's political system, he briefly depicts the political development of Cameroon. The main attention is focused on the Cameroon election process, i.e., on individual elections since 1960 and on participants and the results thereof. The same stress is laid on the development of the political partisanship since 1948. Finally, Petr Skalník provides an overview of Cameroon political parties divided into the out of function, non-active and active ones. Cameroon as an African country with an extremely complex ethnic composition also would deserve an inquiry concerning the ethnic representation in politics or an overall analysis of the relations between ethnic groups and politics practiced on different levels.

A comparison of the three cases would have been useful, but it is missing. For further reading the rich list of sources on pages 206–214 is of importance.

This is a pioneering monograph that reveals interesting patterns of African political partisanship based on the theory of African political parties. Besides, it is valuable not only for political scientists and Africanists. The three case studies make it possible to get acquainted with the modern history, important problems and influential personalities of the countries in question. As the African problems are of concern to Europe nowadays, this work dedicated to the deeper knowledge of the African political situation is filling up a blank which used to exist in Czech academic production.

Jan Klíma

Bucková, M. and Pirický, G. (eds.) *Podoby globalizácie v Oriente* [Forms of Globalisation in the Orient]. Bratislava: SAV 2015, 302 pp.

The edited volume under review presents the outcome of an international workshop held by the Slovak Academy of Sciences in late 2015, which focused on the various forms and effects of globalisation in the areas covered by the discipline of Oriental studies. In the words of the editors of the volume, the goal of the publication is to concentrate on socio-cultural globalisation in Asia, Africa and Oceania,